



The Leahy-Pascrell Crime Gun Tracing Modernization Act: Bringing law enforcement crime gun tracing into the 21st Century

THE REALITY OF CRIME GUN TRACING TODAY:

- Americans would be shocked to know that the ATF is prohibited *by law* from electronically searching through millions of gun sales records when tracing *firearms used in crimes* across the country.
- As a result of this absurd prohibition, **the ATF is essentially stuck in the 19th Century** when it comes to **investigating and tracing crime guns**.
- Millions of these records are stored on paper, with **thousands of boxes housed in the hallways and in shipping containers in the parking lot** of the National Tracing Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia.



- Every spare square foot of the National Tracing Center is loaded with boxes of records. The ATF has been told **if it places more boxes inside the facility the floor may collapse**.

THE REALITY OF CRIME GUN TRACING TODAY (CONTINUED):

- **With each crime gun, the ATF is forced to manually re-create the chain of custody from the point of manufacturing to the hands of the criminal**, ultimately contacting individual dealers or searching through millions of paper or non-searchable electronic files.
- The National Tracing Center **will receive more than 100 million sales records this year, many of which are in terrible condition**. Some have been damaged by floods and fires.



- **This laborious process drains resources and threatens serious delays in criminal investigations** by federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities — all of whom depend upon the ATF to quickly trace crime guns.
- **The ATF receives 1,600 trace requests each day. This is not how law enforcement should be forced to trace crime guns.**

THE LEAHY-PASCRELL CRIME GUN TRACING MODERNIZATION ACT WOULD:

- **Enable the ATF to electronically search sales records already in its possession.**
 - It would *not expand the universe of records the ATF is able to access*.
 - It would only allow searches *for the limited purposes of criminal and national security investigations*.
- **Empower licensed firearms dealers to voluntarily provide the ATF with electronic access to sales records for these limited purposes**, so dealers could choose to not be burdened with maintaining physical possession of all their sales records and manually responding to every ATF crime gun trace.
- **Strictly prohibit the ATF from electronically searching such records for personally identifiable information**, and only allow searches for firearms identifiable information.

SUPPORT FOR THE LEGISLATION:

- The bill last Congress was endorsed by numerous law enforcement organizations, including: Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.
- The bill was also strongly supported by the March for Our Lives organization.